

## Today's News - Wednesday, February 16, 2011

- Rybczynski says Gehry's "spark is back" in Miami's New World Symphony center: it's "his best work in years."
- Lewis warns of "CAD-gone-wild": "if every architect emulated Gehry's expressive approach, a lot of bad architecture would result."
- The saga continues as 2011 Solar Decathlon student teams really rally to protest relocating their solar houses somewhere other than the National Mall; still no word on new site (kudos to SCI-Arc/Cal Tech team video!).
- Incoming head of SA Australian Institute of Architects says local talent should design more of the state's landmark buildings: "if the state supported the local architectural community it would give young graduates a reason to stay here."
- An impressive shortlist (though scant details) for the Belfast Expo Centre intended to "showcase the wider regeneration of west Belfast."
- Kamin cautions that while Target targeting Sullivan's Carson Pirie Scott building could be good news, "God (or the devil) will be in the details."
- Long takes a long look at our fascination with all things Gothic as he cheers the "spectacular" rebirth of Scott's St Pancras Renaissance Hotel.
- Woodman chats it up with "globetrotting architect" Chipperfield, "now finally receiving recognition in his home country," re: "his thrilling designs" for Hepworth Wakefield, Turner Contemporary, Margate, and more.
- Danish "super-architect" Ingels chats it up with Johannesburg's The Daily Maverick: "Part poet. Part visionary. All genius" by creating "buildings and cities as spaces where sustainability and hedonistic pleasure live together rather comfortably."
- Architects, academics, artists, and others team up for a "riverscaping" project on the Connecticut River with funding from an unexpected source: the EU.
- Researchers warn that "while it may be tempting to look at LEDs as having solved the problem of environmentally-unfriendly lighting," they're not as eco-friendly as some might think.
- Jennifer Busch resigns as editor-in-chief of Contract Magazine to move to the supply side of the industry; search is on for her replacement (we wish her all the best in her new adventure!).
- Eyefuls of (some of) Contract's 2011 Interiors Awards winners + Travel + Leisure Design Awards 2011.
- Call for entries: 2011 Spark competition x 2: Spark:Pro Design & Architecture Awards and Spark:Concept Awards.

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Frank Gehry Is Back: The architect's New World Center in Miami is his best work in years...the creative spark that characterized his early work...seems to have been replaced by an obligation to live up to his bad-boy public image. Now the spark is back. By Witold Rybczynski -- West 8 [slide show essay]- Slate

Computers are great tools for architects, but don't let CAD go wild: ...there may be risks in abandoning the pencil and relying so completely on the computer...drawing less by hand may tempt some architects to think less critically...if every architect emulated Gehry's expressive approach, a lot of bad architecture would result...CAD can seductively induce "I can, therefore I shall" thinking. By Roger K. Lewis - Washington Post

Architecture Professors and Students Protest Moving Solar Decathlon Off the National Mall: The solar houses...have been under way for almost two years now...features in the designs have been optimized for the specific site... By Scott Carlson [links, video]- The Chronicle of Higher Education

Let's build our way to greatness: Local architects should design more of the state's landmark buildings, the next head of the SA Australian Institute of Architects says...if the state supported the local architectural community it would give young graduates a reason to stay here. -- Nick Tridente/Tridente Architects - Adelaide Now

Belfast Expo Centre shortlist unveiled: ...involves transforming the now demolished Andersonstown police into an centre to showcase the wider regeneration of west Belfast. -- Grafton Architects/Adam Kara Taylor; Hawkins Brown/North Seven; Kennedy Fitzgerald/Carmody Groarke; Neils Torp/WDR/RT Taggart; URS Scott Wilson/Hackett Hall McKnight- BD/Building Design (UK)

Target in Carson Pirie Scott & Co.: Good news, but God (or the devil) will be in the details: ...there are unanswered questions, and they largely have to do with the potential tension between retailer's need to project its image and the cultural imperative to preserve the former Carson's store... By Blair Kamin -- Louis Sullivan (1906); T. "Gunny" Harboe- Chicago Tribune

The Gothic St Pancras Renaissance Hotel is epic: Next month's reopening of George Gilbert Scott's masterpiece, the Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras station...prompts a timely reflection on a style that modern architects derided in the 20th century but which the public stubbornly continues to love...the work is spectacular... By Kieran Long- Evening Standard (UK)

David Chipperfield: homecoming hero: Globetrotting architect...now finally receiving recognition in his home country, talks about his thrilling designs for two new major British galleries...if [his] work can be said to have a central preoccupation, it lies in the responsibility that architecture owes to the urban fabric of which it forms a part. By Ellis Woodman [images]- Telegraph (UK)

A beautiful mind - property of Bjarke Ingels: The only people to blame for dead-boring cities and ugly factories are ourselves. So says Danish super-architect...who is winning love across continents for his groundbreaking architectural designs. -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG [images, videos]- The Daily Maverick (Johannesburg, South Africa)

European Union sends \$135,000 for 'riverscaping' project on the Connecticut River: ...will weave together architecture, art and environmental issues to demonstrate how communities are linked to the river...18-month Five College Architectural Studies program now under way...- Daily Hampshire Gazette (Massachusetts)

LED bulbs not as eco-friendly as some might think: ...while it may be tempting to look at them as having solved the problem of environmentally-unfriendly lighting, researchers from the University of California would advise against such thinking. - Gizmag (Australia)

Jennifer Busch Resigns as Editor in Chief of Contract Magazine: ...to become vice president, marketing A&D, for InterfaceFLOR...John Rouse, publisher, is actively engaged in a nationwide search to identify the next editor in chief. - Contract magazine

2011 Interiors Awards Winners -- Primo Orpilla/erda Alexander/studio o+a; Perkins+Will | Eva Maddox Branded Environments; Clive Wilkinson Architects; NBBJ; ZGF Architects; y Clodagh Design; Giorgio Borruo Design; Kris Lin Interior Design; KMS TEAM/jangled nerves; Triz Arte; Centerbrook Architects and Planners; MamotoScott Architects; Bommarito Group; STUDIOS Architecture [links to images, info]- Contract magazine

Travel + Leisure Design Awards 2011: ...the best-designed hotels, restaurants, and more... -- Hani Rashid/Lise Anne Couture/Asymptote; Michel Penneman; Olivier Hannaert; Neri & Hu Design & Research Office; Priestmangoode; Nina Garduno; Adrian Zecha/Marwan Al-Sayed/Wendell Burnette/Rick Joy; Rick Mather Architects; Shigeru Ban/Jean de Gastines; Herzog & de Meuron; Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos [slide show essay]- Travel + Leisure

Call for entries: 2011 Spark competition x 2: Spark:Pro Design & Architecture Awards (for work in production, pre-production, produced, or built); early deadline (save \$\$\$): May 31; standard deadline: September 15 + Spark:Concept Awards (for conceptual work); early deadline (save \$\$\$): March 31; standard deadline: June 15- Spark



-- BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group: New National Gallery, Nuuk, Greenland -- TNT Nuuk; Ramboll Nuuk Arkitekti  
-- Grimshaw Architects: Newport Station, Newport, Wales

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